these registers and accounts will be scrutinised by the Lay Secretary more thoroughly and as a result of which some savings also may be made to Government. It will also result in more time being made available to the Medical Officers to attend to their normal professional duties. Now this is thought of only as an experiment. If the experiment is proved to be successful, Government will place this matter again before this House for making necessary provision for the next year.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: ഇതിനുമുൻപു ഈ ജോലികൾ ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നതു് ആരാണ്?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: Honourable members know that the dieting expenditure in the General Hospital has assumed large proportions on account of the large number of patients.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I have an idea of the qualifications of the Lay Secretary?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: The man selected should be one who has got general administrative experience with some knowledge of Accounts.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: മെഡിക്കൽ സ്റ്റോറിന്റെ ചാർജ്ജുകൂടി ഒരു മെഡിക്കൽമാൻ വഹിക്കുന്നതല്ലേ നല്ലതു്.

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: The man chosen cannot be a medical man. He must know accounting and should have office experience.

PRESIDENT: The position of the doctor in the Medical Department in this respect is more or less that of the Munsiff. At the end of the day he has to attest his initials to the accounts presented to him by the clerk concerned. The man has been sitting all day long in the Bench and he has to put his initials to certain accounts, probably without knowing what he is doing. Such instances have not been rare. One or two came to my notice in another place and in another capacity of important documents having been initialled under the impression that they were some kind of office proceedings.

But that apart, so far as the medical man is concerned, he has absolutely no experience in accounting and the medical stores in the General Hospital are so large and things connected with them so complicated, that unless there is a man who knows the business side of it and who knows accounting, it will be very difficult to manage it. For an ordinary doctor, it will be very difficult to attend to these functions also in the midst of an operation or things of that sort. The experiment has been made in Madras and they say that it has worked very satisfactorily. We will also try the experiment. If it is successful there is nothing to prevent us from coming to the House for sanctioning the necessary expenditure on a permanent basis.

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXVI—PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 20,000 under demand XXVI—Public Health and Sanitation. This amount is required to meet some additional and unexpected expenditure in connection with the prevention of cholera

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[Mr. C. P. Gopala Panicker.]

and malaria in some parts of the State. Grants have to be made to the Municipalities of Kottayam and Nagercoil for malaria control work. I request that the House may be pleased to sanction the grant.

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXIX—STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 4 lakhs under Demand XXIX—Stationery and Printing for meeting the cost of stationery. In support of this demand I wish to point out to the honourable members that since the budget of this year was passed many things have happened. The position with regard to paper became very acute and it was even thought that we would not be able to get any paper at all from outside. So, Government in consultation with the Government of India had to take strong and energetic measures for securing our supplies of special paper. We have been getting down such paper from outside to meet our special requirements for the Registration Department, stamp papers, etc. There was a fear that no such paper will be available in future even for such special requirements. So this Government had to order out extra supplies of such paper from sources pointed out by the Government of India.

With a view to give relief to the school-going population Government had also to order extra paper to make 10 lakhs of standard notebooks. That meant an extra expenditure of about Rs. 3 lakhs. By this arrangement our boys and girls were enabled to get notebooks at cheap rates. All this meant an approximate expenditure of about Rs. 4 lakhs in excess of our budget estimates of Rs. 2,50,000. The people have been saved at least seven lakhs by these timely measures. For these supplies of paper we have to enter into agreements with firms outside the State. Sometimes they insist on payment being made in advance before the supply is made. So, we must be ready for such payments although in actual practice all the sum asked for now may not be spent by the end of the year. But we must be prepared to make the payment whenever the necessity arises. Thus if we are to get a telegram from a Company stating that their bill has to be honoured by a payment through a bank, we must be ready for it. So I move for this additional grant of Rs. 4 lakhs, to meet such possibilities during the rest of the year.

The motion was put to vote and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXX—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS—35 C.

STORES PURCHASE COMMITTEE.

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: Sir, I move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 1,635 under Demand XXX—Miscellaneous Departments—Stores Purchase Committee. During the last three years the activities of the Stores Purchase Committee have been assisted by the Repair Section of Government which enables a certain amount of savings to Government. In these days of war, when articles can be purchased only at abnormally high rates, Government find it more economical to repair and recondition damaged apparatus and instruments and thus manage our needs.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether the department is getting old materials from outside and repairing them?

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